Alleged harassment by ATCs

1414. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:.

(a) whether it is a fact that the National carriers, private domestic airlines and a few foreign airlines have lodged strong complaints alleging harassment by Air Traffic Controllers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airlines Operator's Committee, Bombay and Trivandrum, (representative of international airlines), Air India, Emirates and Cathay Pacific, domestic airlines including Indian Airlines, Alliance Air, Sahara Airlines and Jet Airways had complained about disruptions and delay in flights because of "Go Slow" by Air Traffic Controllers.

(c) A contingency plan was prepared by the Airports Authority of India to deal with the situation. A notification under ESMA (Essential Services Maintenence Act) has been issued by the National Capital Territory of Delhi on 16-02-1999 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued for conferring on certain Central Government officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act. Air Traffic Controllers Guild has given an assurance to Delhi High Court on 19-02-1999 and 26-02-1999 that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. AAI has also taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers. At present, flights are operating normally.

Affect of dislocation of flights on foreign tourist traffic

1415. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign tourist traffic is affected by dislocation in air service due to fog;

(b) if so, what measures are being contemplated to ensure that it is not repeated; and

(c) to what extent the domestic sector is affected?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Considering the unprecedented fog conditions in Delhi and other cities of Northern Region it has been decided to instal CAT III Instrument Landing System at the main runway of Delhi Airport and CAT II ILS at Lucknow, Jammu and Amritsar airports.

(c) The total number of Indian Airlines flights cancelled/delayed during the period December, 1998 and January, 1999 due to fog is as under:—

Cancellations:— December, 1998—167
January, 1999—78

Delays:— December, 1998—363
January, 1999—374

Information on delays/cancellation of private airlines is not readily available.

Corporatisation of Shamshabad Airport

1416. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has demanded corporatisation of the proposed International Airport at Shamshabad; and

if so, the action taken thereon?